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ABSTRACT

In an effort to provide services to the teaching of precollege psychology, the Oklahoma State Psychological Association sponsored a survey of state high schools. Of the 478 questionnaires initiated in November, 1972, 209 (43%) were returned by February 1973. The returns revealed that 112 high schools had a psychology program at the time of the survey. Among the findings are the following: 1) 83% of the teachers emphasize psychology as an approach to understanding life, while only 17% teach it as a science or as a survey of a discipline; 2) 56% of the teachers give objective examinations, while 39% use only essay tests; 3) the majority of the teachers use the lecture-discussion mode (67%), while the others report using lecture (11%), seminar (9%), and laboratory (13%); and 4) a majority use the textbook, "Psychology, Its Principles and Applications" by Engle and Shellgrave. The number of semester hours in psychology, sociology, anthropology, and history completed by the psychology teachers is included. Publications of the Clearinghouse on Precollege Psychology and Behavioral Sciences which gathers and disseminates information to high school teachers are cited in the report. (Author/RM)

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HIGH SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY in Oklahoma: 1972

In an effort to provide services to the teaching of precollege psychology the Oklahoma State Psychological Association sponsored a survey of state high schools. Of the 478 questionnaires initiated in November 1972, 209 (43%) were returned by February 1973. The returns revealed that 112 high schools (53%) had a psychology program at the time of the survey; or in fact 23% (112/478) of Oklahoma high schools reported teaching psychology.

Table I clearly reveals that as the size of school (reporting) increases the greater the probability it has a psychology program.

TABLE I*

no. of students	no. of schools	% of respondent schools with program
0 - 400	59	54%
401 - 1000	34	76%
1000 +	27	100%
TOTAL	120	

NOTE: 23 schools with programs and 66 without failed to identify their school size, therefore these percentages are not complete.

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Of the schools with psychology programs 87% had one teacher, 9% had 2 teachers, but only 4% had 3 or 4 teachers of psychology.

83 (of 112) schools were teaching from 1 to 100 students per week, 9 taught 101-200, 6 taught 201-320, and 3 schools had over 400 students per week.

Students taking psychology courses included 47% seniors, 39% juniors, 13% sophomores and 1% freshmen.

The orientation of the teachers focused on the way they taught their course. 83% emphasized psychology as an approach to understanding life, while only 17% taught it as a science or as a survey of a discipline.

56% of the teachers reported giving objective examinations, while 39% used only essay tests.

The majority of teachers used the lecture-discussion mode (67%), while the others reported using lecture (11%) seminar (9%) and laboratory (13%).

The textbooks being used in the high school classes is of importance. It was found that of the schools responding to the questionnaires a majority use one particular textbook, although others appear frequently as can be seen in Table II.

TABLE II

Textbooks		Textbooks	
Psychology Its Principles and Applications Engle and Shellgrave	42%	Psychology Today CRM 1970	4%
Psychology The Science of Behavior Branca	14%	Living Psychology Hershey and Lugo	3%
Psychology McKeachie and Doyle	11%	Successful Living Peterson	1%
Introduction to Behavioral Sciences Felton	5%	No textbook used	4%

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Of the teachers who are instructing in psychology the amount of preparation which they have in psychology and in various related subjects is of interest. Table III includes the number of teachers who have completed the indicated semester hours in psychology, sociology, anthropology, and history.

TABLE III

semester hours completed	Psychology graduate	Psychology under-graduate	Soci-ology	Antho-pology	History
0	0	0	10	94	6
1-10	27	35	51	9	19
11-20	16	49	25	1	30
21-30	10	15	3	0	27
31-40	0	3	0	0	15
41-50	1	2	1	0	8
51-60	0	0	0	0	3
61-70	0	1	1	0	2
71-80	0	0	0	0	0
81-90	0	0	0	0	0
91-100	0	0	0	0	1

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Division Two of the American Psychology Association in May 1970 established the "Clearinghouse on Precollege Psychology and Behavioral Sciences" to gather and disseminate information to high school teachers. Three pertinent publications are available upon request from "The A.P.A. Clearinghouse on Precollege Psychology and Behavioral Science," 1200 Seventeenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

They are:
Psychology: Where to Begin by J.K. Bare $1.00
Program on the Teaching of Psychology in the Secondary School $2.00
Periodically (A Monthly Newsletter) Free

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The Psychology Department of the Educational Psychology Department at Northeastern State College, Tahlequah, Oklahoma will be conducting a two-week workshop during the summer 1973. The focus of the effort will be to update high school teachers of psychology in the Tahlequah area.

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The anticipated high school workshop on teaching psychology for the summer 1974 was placed in doubt when NSF announced a "hold pattern" following the 1973 budget cuts.

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